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NORTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

No. 41

RALEIGH, N. C.

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHAT CHANGE OCCURRED IN THE TOBACCO ACREAGE?
2. PROSPECTS FOR THE 1949 CORN CROP ARE ABOVE OR BELOW LAST YEAR?
3. DISCUSS GENERAL CONDITIONS.
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5. CURRENT APPLE PROSPECTS ARE FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE.
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9. THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF LAYERS ON N. C. FARMS IS ABOVE OR BELOW LAST YEAR?
10. THE PROSPECTIVE PEACH CROP DROPPED WHAT PERCENT?

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JULY 1, 1949 GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL SITUATION

Generally, conditions have continued favorable for the development of crops in North Carolina. Farmers in some areas were hampered by adverse weather conditions at the time of planting, but for the State as a whole, stands of most crops are about up to normal. Replanting requirements were somewhat heavier than usual in order to obtain good stands. This was particularly true for cotton and peanuts and corn in some areas. Most crops made good progress during June; although at the close of the month dry soil conditions were threatening crops in the Piedmont section. Rains since the first of July have relieved the situation in all except the southern half of the Piedmont area where dry to very dry conditions still prevail. In both the mountain and coastal plain regions soil moisture has been generally plentiful to excessive.

North Carolina farmers have increased the total acreage of all crops for harvest this year about 3 percent above that harvested in 1948. The total acreage of all small grains for harvest as grain is 27 percent above the total in 1948. Tobacco farmers have planted about 6 percent more land to tobacco than last year; while cotton farmers had 12 percent more cotton under cultivation on July 1, 1949 than at the same date a year earlier. The increased acreages of these crops more than offset decreases shown for corn, peanuts, soybeans and other crops.

Most crops are in a good stage of cultivation with the exception of a few localized areas in the eastern part of the State where rainfall has been excessive. Most farmers have been rather liberal with the application of fertilizer on crops this year and with a normal growing season from now until harvest, good yields should be realized from practically all crops. Small grains turned out yields that were below earlier expectations.

CORN PROSPECTS THIRD LARGEST

North Carolina's total acreage of corn for harvest for all purposes this year is estimated at 2,159,000 acres. This is a decrease of 3.1 percent from the 1948 harvested acres and is 7.0 percent below the ten-year average. The continued increase in the proportion of hybrid corn grown, along with better cultural practices, has pushed the expected average yield to 31.5 bushels per acre for 1949, which equals the record set in 1947. This would mean a production of 68,008,000 bushels, the third highest of record.

A comparison of the expected 1949 yield of 31.5 bushels with the 1929-38 (pre-hybrid) average of 18.2 bushels shows the influence hybrid varieties and better cultural practices have had on corn production.

It is estimated that approximately 698,000 acres or 32 percent of the 1949 corn acreage was planted with hybrid seed. This compares with 25 percent or 562,000 acres planted with hybrid seed in 1948 and 14 percent or 309,000 acres in 1947.

TOBACCO PROSPECTS GOOD
ACREAGE UP SIX PERCENT

North Carolina's 1949 flue-cured tobacco crop is estimated at 778,050,000 pounds, 5 percent above 1948 and 15 percent greater than the 10-year average.

The 1949 tobacco crop got off to a slow and rather uneven start because of plant shortages in many producing areas. Plants were scarce on some farms in all belts, but the shortage was most severe in Types 11 and 12 Belts. While sufficient imported plants were secured for meeting intentions, the date of transplanting was delayed and quite variable except in the first planted Border Belt.

The total indicated acreage of flue-cured tobacco types is 630,000 acres, 6 percent above the 594,000 acres harvested last year, but about 4 percent below the 10-year average.

Prospects as of July 1 on all flue-cured types point to the second highest yields of record. It is estimated that the average yield for all flue-cured types will be 1,235 pounds per acre, only 10 pounds less than the 1948 record high.

CORN CROP NEARLY ONE-THIRD HYBRIDS



BARLEY PRODUCTION HIGHER

Indications as of July 1 point to a total of 36,000 acres of barley for harvest as grain this year. This is an increase of 6 percent from the 34,000 acres harvested last year and 12 percent above the ten-year average. Total production is currently estimated at 972,000 bushels which is 22 percent greater than production in 1948 and 27 percent greater than the ten-year average. The yield for this year is estimated at 27.0 bushels and compares with 23.5 bushels for 1948 and the average of 23.7 bushels.

SWEETPOTATO ACREAGE UP

July 1 conditions indicate a sweetpotato crop for North Carolina somewhat larger than 1948 production, but 20 percent below the 1938-47 average. The prospective crop is estimated at 6,210,000 bushels, compared with 5,635,000 bushels in 1948 and the 1938-47 average of 7,714,000 bushels. Acreage for harvest is placed at 54,000, 10 percent more than the 49,000 acres harvested in 1948, but 24 percent above the 1938-47 average.

Average yield per acre is estimated at 115 bushels the same yield as farmers harvested per acre in 1948, but 9 bushels above the 1938-47 average.

Acreage devoted to sweetpotatoes this year is the second lowest since 1882. The 1948 crop of 49,000 acres was the smallest during this period.

SOYBEAN ACREAGE DROPS 8 PERCENT

North Carolina's acreage of soybeans planted alone for all purposes is estimated at 353,000 acres, 8 percent below the 384,000 acres in 1948 and 6 percent less than the (1938-47) average. Growers have indicated that a total of 268,000 (equivalent solid) acres will be harvested for beans this year as compared with 264,000 acres harvested in 1948. This year's acreage for beans is 26 percent above the (1938-47) average. During recent years growers have been steadily increasing the proportion of total acreage harvested for beans, which explains the increase in the acreage intended for beans while the alone acreage is decreasing.

Stocks of soybeans on farms in North Carolina on July 1 are estimated at 89,000 bushels as compared with 105,000 bushels on the same date last year.

EGG PRODUCTION SEASONALLY LOWER

Production of eggs on North Carolina farms during June totaled 97 million, a drop of 24 percent below production for the previous month, but 5 percent above egg production during June 1948.

The number of layers on North Carolina farms averaged 6,830,000 in June, 3 percent under the previous month and 5 percent more than June of last year.

Egg production per 100 layers continued the seasonal decline and averaged 1,413 eggs per 100 layers for June. This is approximately the same as the rate of lay for June of last year, but 273 eggs below the rate of lay per 100 hens for the previous month.

Total eggs produced from January to June is estimated at 625 million, or about 11 percent above egg production for the same period last year which amounted to 565 million eggs.

Farm flocks for the entire United States laid 4,905,000,000 eggs in June -- 2 percent less than last year, but 4 percent more than the 1938-47 average.

COTTON ACREAGE UP 12 PERCENT

The acreage of cotton in cultivation in North Carolina on July 1, 1949 is estimated at 820,000 acres -- an increase of 12 percent over the 730,000 acres in cultivation on July 1, 1948 and 8.5 percent more than the 10-year (1938-47) average of 756,000 acres. If abandonment is about average this year, approximately 811,000 acres will be harvested.

Seed beds were in exceptionally good condition for planting the 1949 crop. The soil was in good shape for planting, but cool temperatures, particularly at night, extended

MILK RECORD CONTINUES

An estimated 156 million pounds of milk was produced during June on farms in North Carolina. This is the highest monthly production of record and exceeds by 5 million pounds the production for May this year and the previous record monthly production of 150 million pounds set in August 1944 by 6 million pounds.

Milk production per cow in herds during June, at 438 pounds, was the highest of record. This compares with 426 pounds per cow in May and 405 pounds in June a year ago. Milk cows in herds, including both milked and dry cows, during the month totaled 356,000 head, a slight increase from the May total of 353,000 head. A part of this increase came from the addition to milk herds of young heifers that have been separated from their first dropped offspring.

With the onset of summer weather and somewhat dry soils in much of the Piedmont area, the condition of pastures during June showed some decline. However, pastures still provided good grazing for the month and contributed greatly to the continued high flow of milk.

much later into the spring than usual, resulting in poor germination and slow plant development. However, in most areas stands are about normal. Recent warm weather, accompanied by generally adequate moisture supplies, has stimulated growth and progress of the crop has been rapid.

For the Nation as a whole, cotton growers have increased their acreage 14 percent over 1948. The acreage in cultivation in the U. S. on July 1, 1949 is estimated at 26,380,000 acres, compared with 23,110,000 acres on the same date last year.

COTTON: ACREAGE IN CULTIVATION ON JULY 1, 1949 AND PRIOR YEARS, ALL STATES

STATE	* 10-YR. AVERAGE ABANDONMENT 1939-48 (PERCENT)	ACREAGE IN CULTIVATION JULY 1			
		AVERAGE 1938-47 (000)	1948 (000)	1949 (000)	PERCENT OF 1948
MISSOURI.....	1.5	381	534	550	103
VIRGINIA.....	1.8	31	26	32	123
N. CAROLINA.....	1.1	756	730	820	112
S. CAROLINA.....	0.8	1,136	1,123	1,210	108
GEORGIA.....	0.7	1,635	1,286	1,470	114
FLORIDA.....	3.0	48	26	46	177
TENNESSEE.....	0.9	694	773	820	106
ALABAMA.....	0.8	1,719	1,637	1,780	109
MISSISSIPPI.....	2.0	2,473	2,583	2,840	110
ARKANSAS.....	1.8	1,968	2,249	2,460	109
LOUISIANA.....	1.8	996	957	1,070	112
OKLAHOMA.....	3.7	1,558	1,069	1,200	112
TEXAS.....	2.4	7,923	8,793	10,400	118
NEW MEXICO.....	2.0	118	215	323	150
ARIZONA.....	0.5	202	282	377	134
CALIFORNIA.....	0.5	357	810	963	119
OTHER STATES....	2.6	19	17	19	112
UNITED STATES..	1.9	22,015	23,110	26,380	114

* Natural causes

PEANUT ACREAGE DOWN

Reports from growers indicate that the 1949 acreage of peanuts grown alone for all purposes will be 254,000 acres, about 19 percent below the 314,000 acres (revised) grown alone for all purposes in 1948 and 13 percent less than the 10-year average of 291,000 acres. This is the smallest acreage of peanuts since 1941 when 240,000 acres were planted alone for all purposes.

Final estimates for the 1948 crop places the acreage picked and threshed for nuts at 295,000 acres. The average yield per acre was estimated at 1,175 pounds, giving a total production of 346,625,000 pounds.

SORGHUM ACREAGE LOWER

North Carolina farmers indicate that they will harvest 40,000 acres of sorghums for all purposes during 1949. This is 5 thousand acres below the total acreage harvested last year and the same amount below the intentions to plant reported in March.

Most of this decline has occurred as a result of smaller plantings of sorghums for grain.

OATS - 2ND LARGEST OF RECORD

Based on growers' reports as of July 1 production of oats in North Carolina this year is expected to total 12,150,000 bushels, which would be the second largest crop of record, being exceeded only by the 12,870,000 bushels produced in 1946. This year's estimated production is a little more than one-half greater than the 7,965,000 bushels produced last year and is 48 percent above the ten-year average.

The acreage of oats for harvest as grain this year at an estimated 405,000 acres is the largest since 1894 - 430,000 acres were harvested that year at an average yield of 11.0 bushels.

At an estimated 30.0 bushels per acre the 1948 yield is also the second highest of record being exceeded by the yield of 33.0 bushels in 1946 and compares with 29.5 bushels last year and the ten-year average of 26.6 bushels.

Although improvements in cultivation practices and the usage of commercial fertilizers have boosted yields, improved varieties have contributed most to the increments in yields the past several years.

WHEAT YIELDS BELOW AVERAGE

North Carolina's 1948 wheat crop declined sharply as harvesting approached its peak and conditions as of July 1 point to a production of 6,008,000 bushels. This is about 37,000 bushels under the 1948 crop and about 800,000 bushels under the 1938-47 average.

The acreage for harvest is estimated at 445,000 acres, about 14 percent above the 1948 crop, but 3 percent below the 1938-47 average. Conditions on July 1 point to a yield of 13.5 bushels of wheat per harvested acre, two bushels per acre below the 1948 average.

Harvested yields are turning out much less than expected, reflecting greater damage from winter freeze, poor pollination, disease and insects than pre-harvest estimates allowed.

For the Nation a production of 1,189 million bushels is indicated for all wheat as of July 1. This is 8 percent less than the 1,288 million bushels produced last year, but about 20 percent more than the average of 992 million bushels. Present prospects are 13 percent less than the record 1947 crop.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES, ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS 1948 AND INDICATED 1949

CROPS	ACREAGE			YIELD			PRODUCTION		
	AVERAGE 1938-47	HARVESTED 1948	INDICATED 1949	AVERAGE 1938-47	1948	INDICATED 1949	AVERAGE 1938-47	REVISED 1948	INDICATED 1949
. THOUSAND .									
CORN, ALL.....BU.	2,320	2,226	2,159	23.0	31.0	31.5	53,124	69,006	68,008
WHEAT, ALL.....BU.	459	390	445	14.8	15.5	13.5	6,805	6,045	6,008
OATS.....BU.	305	270	405	26.8	29.5	30.0	8,226	7,965	12,150
BARLEY.....BU.	32	34	36	23.7	23.5	27.0	764	799	972
RYE.....BU.	40	22	21	10.6	12.5	12.5	407	275	282
TOBACCO, ALL.....LBS.	663	604	641	1,025	1,252	1,242	685,066	756,684	796,310
TYPE 11.....LBS.	256	233	245	954	1,190	1,170	246,663	277,270	286,650
TYPE 12.....LBS.	323	290	310	1,067	1,285	1,290	346,606	372,650	399,900
TYPE 13.....LBS.	75	71	75	1,058	1,260	1,220	80,446	89,460	91,500
TYPE 31.....LBS.	9	10	11	1,240	1,680	1,660	11,351	17,304	18,260
COTTON, LINT.....LBS.	756	730	820	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRISH POTATOES, ALL.....BU.	83	71	62	110	148	137	9,128	10,508	8,494
SWEET POTATOES.....BU.	73	49	54	106	115	115	7,714	5,635	6,210
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS.....BU.	212	264	268	-	-	-	-	-	-
COWPEAS, ALONE.....BU.	132	55	55	-	-	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS, PICKED & THRESHED.....LBS.	274	295 **	-	1,124	1,175 **	-	305,596	346,625	-
HAY, ALL.....TONS	1,215	1,230	1,179	.99	1.04	1.10	1,201	1,284	1,297
ALFALFA.....TONS	11	39	51	2.06	2.35	2.35	23	92	120
CLOVER & TIMOTHY.....TONS	75	86	85	1.13	1.10	1.25	85	95	106
PASTURE.....-	-	-	-	80*	82*	85*	-	-	-
PEACHES, ALL.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,220	1,646	1,505
APPLES, COMMERCIAL.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	958	976	480
PEARS.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	301	209	153
GRAPES.....TONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,190	5,600	4,900
PEANUTS, GROWN ALONE.....	291	314**	254	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNITED STATES									
CORN, ALL.....BU.	88,617	85,439	85,780	31.4	42.7	41.2	2,787,628	3,650,548	3,530,185
WHEAT, ALL.....BU.	59,854	71,904	75,481	16.6	17.9	15.7	1,288,406	1,336,976	1,188,690
OATS.....BU.	38,347	40,191	40,619	32.1	37.1	34.0	1,234,082	1,491,752	1,379,672
BARLEY.....BU.	12,720	12,046	10,019	24.0	26.3	24.4	304,741	317,037	244,104
RYE.....BU.	2,874	2,097	1,586	12.1	12.6	12.4	35,109	26,388	19,735
TOBACCO, ALL.....LBS.	1,654	1,555	1,626	1,033	1,275	1,246	1,718,375	1,981,730	2,025,429
TOBACCO, FLUE CURED.....LBS.	971	883	941	1,011	1,233	1,226	989,925	1,089,584	1,155,058
COTTON, LINT.....LBS.	22,015	23,110	26,380	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRISH POTATOES, ALL.....BU.	2,730	2,099	1,898	145.5	212.4	194.3	393,403	445,850	368,696
SWEET POTATOES.....BU.	711	514	524	89.7	96.9	99.2	63,626	49,806	51,938
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS.....BU.	8,025	10,311	9,686	-	-	-	-	-	-
COWPEAS, ALONE.....BU.	2,459	1,115	1,110	-	-	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS, PICKED & THRESHED.....LBS.	2,718	3,311	-	692	706	-	1,845,718	2,338,470	-
HAY, ALL.....TONS	73,966	73,616	73,360	1.34	1.36	1.33	99,539	99,846	97,671
ALFALFA.....TONS	14,731	15,014	16,719	2.18	2.27	2.22	32,217	34,083	37,057
CLOVER & TIMOTHY.....TONS	21,607	21,995	20,290	1.36	1.33	1.23	29,575	29,309	24,873
PASTURE.....-	-	-	-	86*	82*	85*	-	-	-
PEACHES.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	68,947	65,352	76,250
APPLES, COMMERCIAL.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	111,114	88,407	121,081
PEARS.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,832	26,334	33,685
GRAPES.....TONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,736	3,044	2,995

*Condition - Percent of normal. ** Revised.

#Includes Government purchases from unharvested acres in 1947.

FARM REPORT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Raleigh, N. C.

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JULY 1949

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

OATS, WHEAT, RYE, ON-FARM STOCKS LOW--CORN STOCKS HIGH

As of July 1, on-farm stocks of corn were estimated at 15,996,000 bushels - the second largest July 1 corn supply of record, being exceeded only by the 17,387,000 bushels held on farms a year ago. Disappearance of on-farm supplies of corn up to July 1 has been 2 percent greater than usual. This is probably due in part to the heavier use of corn for feed in order to offset the short supplies of other feed grains as well as increased corn marketings.

Oats stocks on farms as of July 1 at an estimated 677,000 bushels and barley stocks at 72,000 bushels were at about normal supply. On-farm supplies of wheat amounted to 302,000 bushels, the lowest July 1 stocks since 1945 and the second lowest since 1938. At an estimated 11,000 bushels, rye stocks were 6,000 bushels less than for July 1 a year ago and were only one-half as large as the ten-year average.

Stocks of soybeans on farms July 1 were the lowest of record - 89,000 bushels this year compared with 105,000 for 1948 and the average of 221,000 bushels. A fairly good market demand and price situation, as well as forced movement of beans because of high moisture content and shortage of storage space were chief causes for the rapid disappearance to date of farm stocks of soybeans.

ACREAGE FOR ALL HAYS DOWN

As of July 1, the production of all hay in North Carolina is estimated at 1,297,000 tons, an increase of 13,000 tons above last year. The indicated acreage is 1,179,000 as compared with 1,230,000 acres in 1948.

APPLE PROSPECTS THIRD LOWEST

Based on grower's reports as of July 1, the outlook for commercial apples in North Carolina is the lowest since 1945 and points to the third smallest crop of record. Production for 1949 is currently estimated at 480,000 bushels or about one-half as large as the 976,000 bushels produced last year and the average of 958,000 bushels. The smallest crop of record was 194,000 bushels produced in 1945 with 391,000 bushels in 1943 being the second smallest. Late spring freezes reduced the commercial crop.

PEACH PROSPECTS DECLINE

As of July 1, the production of peaches both commercial and non-commercial, in North Carolina was estimated at 1,505,000 bushels. The current estimate is 155,000 bushels less than the estimate on June 1 and 8.6 percent less than total production in 1948.

The freeze in April is primarily responsible for the short crop. In addition, some orchards were damaged by hail and wind storms. A few reports have indicated that the June drop was greater than anticipated.

JUNE WEATHER SUMMARY

Unusually heavy rains occurred during the month in the Coastal Plain and Mountain section, while much of the Central Piedmont went begging for rain. Record-breaking rainfall amounts fell at Scotland Neck and Smithfield on the 29th amounting to over 5 inches causing some crop damage in those areas. Floods occurred on several of the mountain streams during the middle of the month when rainfall amounts averaging over 10 inches fell in headwater areas during a two-day period. Temperatures were unusually cool during most of the first ten days with some minimum temperatures in the 40's in the mountains and in the 50's elsewhere. Warming took place after the 10th with many periods averaging well above seasonal values. As a result, average temperatures for the month were normal or a little above over the entire State.

NORTH CAROLINA
INCHES OF RAINFALL
DURING JUNE, 1949

